

Abstract

A scanning apparatus includes a support frame and a laser scanner mounted to the frame. A five bar closed loop spherical linkage supports a clamping device for retaining an object. The linkage moves the object through a scanning beam about a spherical surface to facilitate scanning of curved objects. The linkage is mounted on an arm rotatably mounted to the frame and the clamping device is rotatably mounted to the linkage to provide four degrees of freedom. Encoders and motors drive the linkage to provide accurate positioning and providing for digitizing the scanned object.

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